

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle having integrated trim panel components, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a die including a pair of die halves cooperating to define a mold cavity to form a interior trim panel, at least one of said die halves including a surface within said mold cavity defining an A-surface, one of said ~~mold cavities~~ die halves including a plurality of recesses having a predetermined shape;

placing at least one trim panel component having a contact surface into said corresponding recess within said mold cavity;

closing said first and said second die halves;

forming a rigid substrate having an A-side surface visible to the interior of a vehicle when secured to a vehicle door in said mold cavity by injecting a molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined pressure less than the maximum clamp pressure of said die into said mold cavity so as to fill said mold cavity; and

bonding said molten thermoplastic material to said contact surface of said at least one trim panel component within said mold cavity while said rigid substrate is formed.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of:

at least partially curing the molten thermoplastic material in said mold cavity to form a finished molded interior trim panel having at least one trim panel component bonded thereto; and

removing the molded interior trim panel assembly having at least one integrated trim panel component from said mold cavity.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the step of closing said first and said second die halves further includes closing the die so as to permit said contact surface of said trim panel component to operatively engage said molten thermoplastic material.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein the step of forming a rigid substrate includes injecting a thermoplastic material at a temperature no greater than the melting point of said contact surface.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of placing at least one trim panel component into said corresponding recess within said mold cavity further includes placing a trim panel component having at least one surface visible to a vehicle interior into said corresponding recess within said mold cavity and matching said visible surface of said trim panel component to the A-surface of said mold cavity.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of bonding said molten thermoplastic material to at least one trim panel component within said mold cavity further includes bonding said thermoplastic material to said trim panel component where the bond line is not visible along the A-surface of said formed rigid substrate.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of bonding said molten thermoplastic material to at least one trim panel component within said mold cavity further includes bonding said thermoplastic material to said trim panel component where the visible surface of said trim panel component and the A-side surface formed by said thermoplastic material bond along a substantially similar plane to provide a compact bond line reveal.

9 – 19. (Withdrawn)